HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIFTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
NO. 25
2019/2020

ORDER PAPER
FRIDAY MAY 08, 2020: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

1. The Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Bill, 2019.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2019.
   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

2. The Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019.
   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

   (By the Minister of Finance)

4. The Value-Added Tax (Bond-Payment Refund) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2020
   (By the Minister of Finance)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

1. The Eighth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an Inquiry into the Adequacy of Magistrates’ Courts Facilities.
   (By the Member for Oropouche West)
2. The Twenty-Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Processing of Payment of Pension and Gratuity to Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees.

(By the Member for Fyzabad)


(By the Member for Fyzabad)

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. WHEREAS section 122(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01 (“the Act”) provides that the President shall, after consultation with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition nominate persons, who are qualified and experienced in the disciplines of law, finance, sociology or management, to be appointed as members of the Police Service Commission;

AND WHEREAS section 122(4) of the Act provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated for appointment under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS the President has nominated Dr. Simon Alexis to be appointed as a member of the Police Service Commission;

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 14th day of February, 2020 made a Notification in respect of the nomination;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the nomination of Dr. Simon Alexis as a member of the Police Service Commission be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

2. WHEREAS it is provided by section 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 29th day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

3. WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 190 dated the 19th day of December, 2018;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

4. WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 34 dated the 18th day of February, 2019;
AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

**Bills Second Reading:**

1. The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday March 13, 2020 will be resumed:

   A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the registration and regulation of real estate agents in order to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in the real estate profession, to protect and assist persons engaged in transactions with real estate agents and to assist in the detection and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, and other related matters”.

   (By the Attorney General)

2. The Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress on Wednesday November 27, 2019 will be completed:

   A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”.

   (By the Attorney General)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02”.

   (By the Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to repeal and replace the Shipping Act, Chap 50:10, the Harbours Act, Chap 50:06, the Droghers Act, Chap. 50:07, the Motor Launches Act, Chap. 50:08, to amend the Port Authority Act, Chap. 51:01 and the Coroners Act, Chap. 6:04 to provide for the certification and registration of vessels and offshore installations, matters relating to crew safety and security of life at sea and matters incidental thereto”.

   (By the Minister of Works and Transport)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Interception of Communications Act, Chap. 15:08”.

   (By the Attorney General)

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Motions:**

1. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday March 6, 2020 will be resumed:


   (By the Member for Laventille West)
2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 7, 2020 will be resumed:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2016 in the Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North/East)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

1. The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday February 28, 2020 will be resumed:

WHEREAS since 2015 this Government has been unable to provide for the safety and security of citizens resulting in increases in serious crimes particularly murder;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 Trinidad and Tobago has experienced two consecutive years with over 516 murders and witnessed in 2019 the second highest annual murder rate in its history;

AND WHEREAS the Government has been unwilling or unable to articulate specific, measurable, timely, and outputs-oriented crime-reduction targets;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to realize that an ‘Whole of Government Approach’ to solving crime is necessary;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemns this Government for its failure to deal with rampant crime.

(By the Member for Naparima)

2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 22, 2019 will be resumed:

WHEREAS Climate Change is a matter of global concern which threatens all nations;

AND WHEREAS small island states and coastal states are especially susceptible to the impact of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean region has, from time to time, experienced cycles of drought, heavy rainfall, hurricanes and floods;

AND WHEREAS earthquakes and other natural disasters must be anticipated and prepared for;
BE IT RESOLVED that this House agree that the Government develop a holistic and sustainable national response to climate change inclusive of solutions to the perennial flooding in Trinidad and Tobago and the effective management of drought conditions and the impact of such disasters on the quality of human life.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

3. WHEREAS the prices of oil and natural gas on which the 2020 Budget was premised were too high and production of natural gas is likely to be lower than estimated yielding shortfalls in revenue targets;

AND WHEREAS business and consumer confidence in the economy continues to deteriorate, characterised by business closures, lack of investment and job losses;

AND WHEREAS the official debt is upward of one hundred billion, indebtedness is much higher and our foreign reserves, unsupported by export gains have been dwindling;

AND WHEREAS there has been little action with regard to diversification;

AND WHEREAS Government policy is yet to yield recovery, prompt a structural shift or transform the economy;

AND WHEREAS the fiscal, monetary and economic policies of the Government have been a collection of contradictions and a total failure;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on the Prime Minister to immediately dissolve Parliament and call for a General Election to facilitate the change needed to execute coherent and inclusive policies that will promote the recovery and renewal of confidence of the economy.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

4. WHEREAS the public health sector of Trinidad and Tobago over the past four (4) years has deteriorated, with significantly increased morbidity and preventable deaths;

AND WHEREAS the collapse of the primary health care system has resulted in widespread suffering from chronic, non-communicable diseases;

AND WHEREAS there is overcrowding of Accident and Emergency Departments at public hospitals, with unacceptable waiting times for surgeries as a result of insufficient medical resources and non-functioning diagnostic equipment among other things;

AND WHEREAS numerous nationals were denied employment as doctors, nurses and technicians, despite the shortage of these professionals;

AND WHEREAS the closure of the Central Block of Port of Spain General Hospital has led to patients of North and West Trinidad being deprived of health care;

AND WHEREAS the Government has refused to put the modern Couva Hospital into optimum use and has terminated construction of the National Oncology Centre;
BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government for its mismanagement of the health sector and call for the implementation of extensive remedial measures, policies and programmes.

(By the Member for Caroni East)

5. WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago’s energy sector has been a significant contributor to our nation’s revenue, generating employment and promoting economic stability and infrastructural and national development;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed on its commitment to create an environment in which producer companies in the energy sector and aggressively seek new discoveries in oil and gas;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to deliver its promise of ensuring that we have an attractive, competitive and responsive fiscal and regulatory environment that will maximise recovery of our hydrocarbon resources;

AND WHEREAS over the last four years we have seen a reduction in oil and gas production and numerous closures of key operators, service providers and companies within the energy sector;

AND WHEREAS the state of our energy sector presents detrimental consequences for our economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government’s failure to stimulate, secure and sustainably grow our energy sector in a timely manner.

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

6. WHEREAS there has been a decline in the student participation rate in the tertiary education from 2016 to 2019;

AND WHEREAS the misguided GATE policies of the Ministry of Education have resulted in cuts in the allocations or late payments to tertiary level institutions creating financial cash flow challenges and job losses;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of the means test has affected the career aspirations of graduates;

AND WHEREAS significant numbers of graduates continue to be unemployed without any immediate hope for temporary or sustainable jobs;

AND WHEREAS a number of training providers have either been closed and/or their programmes discontinued;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government for its incompetence and inability to properly manage the Tertiary Education Sector.

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)
Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Kabir Association of Trinidad (Incorporation) Ordinance, 1932”.

(The Speaker will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second time)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
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May 04, 2020
NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **To the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**
   Could the Minister state precisely what measures will be taken to address the food card support shortage in respect of the school feeding program for the thousands of children who have been left stranded without access to any food cards as promised?
   (By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

2. **To the Minister of Health:**
   Could the Minister indicate whether antibody testing is currently being used as part of the COVID-19 protocol to define and quantify immunity in the population?
   (By the Member for Fyzabad)

3. **To the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:**
   Given the collapse of the oil and gas prices as well as the unprecedented global economic downturn which have had significant detrimental effects on the local downstream industry, could the Minister state if the Government would be willing to offer short term relief pricing measures as requested by the downstreamers to protect the energy industry as well as to save thousands of jobs?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

4. **To the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**
   Could the Minister state how will the $30 million given to churches and other Government’s select religious bodies be monitored and evaluated to ensure that the under-privileged receive help?
   (By the Member for Oropouche West)

 Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
 Clerk of the House

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*May 08, 2020*